

News Release



Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell

600 Corporate Pointe, Suite 1150
Culver City, California 90230

Contact: Cynthia Sardo (310) 342-5678

Immediate Release

State Controller Connell Cuts Down Fence and Removes “Private Property” Signs in Ongoing Campaign to Cleanup Ballona Wetlands

Actor Ed Begley, Jr. and Environmentalists Helped Restore Public Access

Los Angeles. March 10, 2001. State Controller Kathleen Connell joined Actor Ed Begley, Jr. and more than 100 environmentalists today to continue her commitment to restore the Ballona Wetlands to its natural beauty for public and wildlife use.

To allow the public to use the open space at Area C, the state-owned parcel of land, south of Marina del Rey, Connell and the environmentalists:

- cut down and hauled away the chain-link fence
- removed the barrels of hazardous waste left by developers
- tore down more than 50 “Private Property” signs
- cleaned up trash and litter that had accumulated on the property

Keeping her promise to help the environmentalists clean up the wetlands, Controller Connell told the people gathered that it's important to reclaim the property. “We need to preserve this area for the people of Los Angeles and for the wildlife that live here, too. It has been a dumping ground for runoff trash and construction waste for too long.”

Connell cited several other reasons for restoring Area C to a functioning ecosystem:

- for flood control and a natural purification filter for coastal waters
- to preserve threatened plants and animals
- to serve as an invaluable laboratory and biology classroom for our children, and their children
- to one day provide a continuous bike trail and park into the Baldwin Hills

Connell kept her commitment to clean up the Ballona Wetlands today after a guided tour earlier this year that made her aware of the pileup of trash that has accumulated over years of neglect. She pledged to return and clean up the wetlands and restore the open space to its natural beauty.

Today's cleanup is the second of many monthly cleanups planned this year. T-shirts displaying blue herons were distributed to volunteers who committed to participate in at least four monthly cleanups.